Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015 High 15°C /Low 12°C Take an umbrella

The city says plans to upgrade Burrard Bridge will be a crowd-pleaser for commuters, but one councillor worries about the loss of a vehicle lane. Story, metroNEWS. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

City spent thousands on fuel spill

ENGLISH BAY

Officials not sure how to get reimbursement

The City of Vancouver spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in response to the toxic fuel spill in English Bay, the city's deputy manager revealed Monday, but getting reimbursed is proving harder than sending a bill to the polluter.

Deputy city manager Sadhu Johnston said he couldn't disclose the full cost since the city is still tallying receipts from the April 8 oil spill, but he estimated the final bill will be "definitely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

That's on top of undetermined expenses incurred by the Canadian Coast Guard, West Coast Marine Response Corporation and the province in response to the 3,000-litre bunker fuel spill from the MV Marathassa.

"The taxpayer should not be on the hook to clean up after this company," Johnston said.

Yet nearly two months after the spill, "it's a bit of a maze" trying to figure out how best to get reimbursed from a variety of sources, Johnston said.

The city can either go through a federal ship-sourced pollution fund, Emergency Management B.C. or the ship's owners, or it can pursue legal action.

Its expenses include staff time, direct costs such as protective equipment, and consultant costs for ecological testing. The city also spent money on its debrief, the coast guard review and on legal costs. It's too early to say how long reimbursement will take or whether the ship's owners will respect all of the expense claims, Johnston said.

He called for a review of Canada's polluter pay model and questioned why each party needs to negotiate instead of just sending the polluter a bill.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Judge awards $15B to Quebec smokers. **Business**

B.C. cycling community suffers 'devastating loss'

WHISTLER

Two members of bike club hit, killed by vehicle on highway

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Ross Chafe, 50, right, and Kelly Blunden, 53, were killed Sunday when a vehicle struck them while they were cycling on Highway 99 near Pemberton. FACEBOOK

Whistler's close-knit cycling community is grieving the loss of two cyclists who were struck and killed on Sunday by an allegedly impaired driver on a highway near Pemberton.

The BC Coroners Service identified the cyclists as Ross Chafe, 50, and Kelly Blunden, 53. The two, both members of the Whistler Cycling Club, died around noon Sunday when police said a vehicle drove into them on Highway 99 about 60 kilometres north of Whistler.

The vehicle's sole passenger, identified as 52-year-old Paul Pierre Jr., was also killed in the collision, according to the coroners service.

"Everybody is just devastated," said Gary Baker, vice president of the Whistler Cycling Club. "The members that I've been talking to just can't believe it. Some of them are just breaking down."

Baker said he heard the cyclists were riding downhill on a highway north of Pemberton when a driver crossed into their lane and hit them head-on. A third cyclist, who was a little behind the victims, heard a loud bang before he saw the devastation, he said.

Whistler-Pemberton RCMP Staff Sgt. Steve LeClair said the driver, who is believed to have been impaired based on observations from witnesses and officers at the scene, was taken by helicopter to a Vancouver hospital accompanied by a police officer.

No charges have been laid, and police said the investigation is ongoing.

Frank Savage, president of the Whistler Cycling Club, said the cycling community is reeling from the loss.

Savage said Chafe, who worked in business development for Flags Unlimited, was a seasoned cyclist who was instrumental in starting the Whistler Cycling Club. He was the club's original secretary, using his business experience to help the club become incorporated, said Savage.

Described as a "big family man," Savage said Chafe and his wife, who works as a physician in Whistler, had three young children.

"It's just a devastating loss," Savage said. "When there's young children, it just makes it that much worse."

Blunden, a husband and father of an adult daughter and son, worked in IT for the Resort Municipality of Whistler and helped build the club's website, Savage said.

"He was just the most generous person," said Savage. "The loss here to the municipality as well as the cycling community is just overwhelming."

Savage said the cycling community is rallying around the victims' families to help support them.

"But support is one thing," he said. "They have to live with this the rest of their lives."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

TERRORISM

Video almost causes mistrial

The trial of a husband and wife accused of plotting to blow up the B.C. legislature came close to being declared a mistrial over the Crown's closing address, which the judge said was so inflammatory and inappropriate it took her breath away.

With the jury out of earshot and before members began deliberating on the fate of John Nuttall and Amanda Korody on terror charges, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Catherine Bruce said she would have called a mistrial had the proceedings not been so protracted and difficult.

In his closing submissions, Crown lawyer Peter Eccles played a 45-minute highlight reel for the jury of what the Crown considered the most important video and audio evidence shown throughout the four-month trial.

The compilation closed with footage of an actual pressure-cooker explosion demolishing a surrounding ring of plywood boards in a controlled detonation staged by police.

"That dramatic video production … took my breath away with its impropriety," Bruce told Eccles.

"I don't know how I can bring the jury from a state of inflammatory to a state of neutral after you have created this American-television view of this trial."

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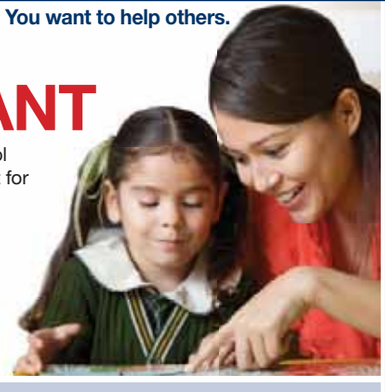

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A cyclist, an in-line skater, pedestrians and vehicles navigate the tricky intersection at the north end of the Burrard Bridge — the No. 2 spot for collisions in Vancouver. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Burrard Bridge's $30M makeover

CONSTRUCTION

Pedestrians thrilled, NPA councillor concerned

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

City officials believe the $30-million makeover to the Burrard Bridge will have pedestrians, cyclists and drivers cheering, although one city councillor is worried the design might snarl traffic.

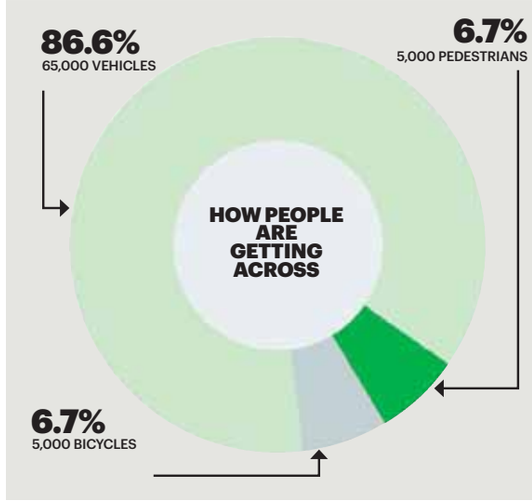
The plan includes removing one northbound vehicle lane, reinstating pedestrian traffic on the bridge's east side and redesigning the north end of the bridge to mirror renovations to the intersection at Burrard and Cornwall.

The bridge has been on the city's radar as the second most dangerous for collisions in the city, acting director of transportation Lon LaClaire told reporters at the northwest corner of Burrard and Pacific on Monday morning. It's particularly dodgy for those heading into Kits, he said, as cyclists and drivers have to watch out for each other in a right-turn lane known for sideswipes and rear-end collisions.

While the project involves removing a vehicle lane, LaClaire said there will not be a reduction in capacity because congestion happens at the intersections, not the middle of the bridge.

The goal is to replicate the bridge's south end, which the city renovated last year to separate the movement of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. While residents were skeptical about the unusual design at first, feedback has been "extremely positive," LaClaire said.

DAILY TRIPS Transportation breakdown



> **To be really clear, the capacity of the bridge is not determined by the lanes on the bridge. Where you experience congestion is at the intersections.**
> Lon LaClaire

The proposed upgrades came as happy news to Tanya Paz, interim chair of the city's Active Transportation Policy Council.

"I'm excited," she said. "It's important to fix this sooner rather than later."

Her main concern is reinstating a space for pedestrians on the bridge's east side since they already use it despite prohibitions. She hopes the city will also tweak the new design to ensure pedestrians and cyclists can cross at all four sides of the intersection.

But Non-Partisan Association Coun. George Affleck, who attended the press conference, was skeptical the plans are about "forcing congestion to force people out of cars."

"It's hard to believe we're not going to see congestion in the middle of the bridge," he said, adding staff will need to prove otherwise. He also questioned how quickly council will be asked to approve the project.

Nearby business owner Jack Larbi, who has operated Swan Laundry for a decade, expressed concerns about a loss of parking and how construction will affect his business.

"Every summer they come in and change something without letting everybody know," he said.

Construction will take 14 to 18 months and will cost $20 million for electrical upgrades, railing and sidewalks, as well as $10 million for the new intersection.

The city will hold two open houses to explain the project to the public at the Roundhouse Community Centre on June 6 and June 16.

Lon LaClaire, the city's acting director of transportation, explains plans to renovate the Burrard Bridge to media on Monday. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

REAL ESTATE

Housing demand highest since 2007

The demand for housing in British Columbia is at its strongest since 2007, according to the B.C. Real Estate Association.

In its 2015 second quarter housing forecast, released Monday, the association says residential sales in B.C. are forecast to rise 2.4 per cent this year and 3.9 per cent in 2016.

Meanwhile, residential sales prices are also forecast to shoot up 4.5 per cent this year and another 2.4 per cent next year.

While the projections fall well short of a record-setting 2005 (when 106,300 sales were recorded), it represents the strongest housing demand in the province since 2007.

The forecast was released as housing affordability in Vancouver has dominated headlines and public debate.

Also on Monday, Insights West released a new poll showing 73 per cent of British Columbians support an "Absentee Homeowner Tax" for people who acquire residential properties but don't live in them.

Last month, real estate marketer Bob Rennie and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson both publicly supported the idea for a provincial speculation tax targeting investors who sell property shortly after acquiring it for a quick profit.

Approximately 500 people attended a #donthave1million affordable housing rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery on May 24. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

AGREEMENT

Veteran benefits lawsuit put on hold

A long-running lawsuit launched by disabled Afghanistan war veterans against the federal government is off the docket until after the federal election, if not forever.

The two sides met in a Vancouver court Monday and agreed to put proceedings on hold until May 2016 to gauge the impact of government reforms to benefits for veterans in recent months.

If the changes satisfy the veterans who launched the suit in 2012, the case will be over, said their lawyer Don Sorochan.

He wants to see what the political parties offer veterans during this fall's election campaign.

A lawyer representing the federal attorney general said the government was amenable to standing down.

"The upshot of (Monday's) outcome is that it allows the parties to proceed on their chosen path, which is a collaborative effort to resolve these matters to everybody's satisfaction," said Lori Rasmussen.

The six veterans filed the class-action lawsuit to argue that modern-day soldiers were being discriminated against compared with those who fought in the world wars and Korea.

Some groups had threatened to actively campaign against the Conservatives.

Several new measures have been introduced recently, including new pain and suffering awards, expanded access to permanent impairment allowances for the most severely disabled veterans, and retirement income security benefits.

The government has also introduced a bill recognizing the "sacred obligation" to veterans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police defend choice to shoot family's dog

RCMP

'System in place' for owner to get compensation

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Richmond RCMP say a local resident can apply for compensation after an "unfortunate" incident that saw police shoot his dog.

Hector Riquelme's seven-year-old dog, Koda, was shot in the face after she ran toward officers that entered his front lawn while investigating a nearby break-in Friday morning.

Riquelme said he's racked up nearly $4,000 in veterinary bills to treat the dog's extensive injuries already and Koda will require additional reconstructive surgery once she recovers from her initial injuries.

RCMP won't pay any of the bills up front, but spokesman Cpl. Dennis Hwang told Metro there is a "system in place" at the civil branch of the national police force where Riquelme can apply for compensation.

"We've been very forthright in this situation and this incident was a very unfortunate one," said Hwang.

"We are not denying it happened."

Hwang said police did not require a warrant to enter the resident's property, in the 3000-block of Garden City Road, as they were trying to retrieve evidence — a black duffel bag matching the description of one carried by the suspect — in response to an ongoing break-in call in the area.

Koda, shot by an RCMP officer, is comforted by Hector Riquelme's sister and daughter at the family's Richmond home Monday. CONTRIBUTED

> **We've been very forthright in this situation and this incident was a very unfortunate one.**
> RCMP Cpl. Dennis Hwang

The duffle bag turned out to be unrelated, but Hwang said officers had no way to tell.

They also didn't know if the suspect was still be in the area, he said.

RCMP said an officer was forced to shoot at the dog after it and Riquelme's other "pit-bull-like" dog charged police as they entered the fenced off property.

The officer believed both dogs to be aggressive and acted in self-defense in the few moments police had time to react.

"These dogs ran straight for them," said Hwang.

"I'm not going to second-guess the officer."

Riquelme told Metro on Sunday neither dog had a history of violence against humans and claims he didn't hear his dogs bark before hearing a gunshot go off on his property.

He insisted police could have just asked to enter his property.

Koda suffered injuries to her face, jaw, teeth and sinuses as a result of the shooting.

Police continue to investigate the break-in and the shooting of the dog.

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IN BRIEF

B.C. grand chief says officials destroyed emails

The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs alleges that a federal government bureaucrat ordered the destruction of legal opinions over the potential of B.C. First Nations to reach land-claim agreements.

The allegations come days after a former B.C. government worker alleges he was told to delete emails connected to the Highway of Tears investigation into murdered and missing women that were part of a Freedom of Information request.

Union Grand Chief Stewart Phillip claims a federal access to information request shows a director with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada ordered the destruction of the legal opinions. Phillip says the union has filed a formal complaint with the Office of the Information Commissioner to investigate.

Neither the Information Commissioner of Canada nor a spokesperson at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada were available for comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TransCanada reaches deals with 3 more B.C. First Nations for pipeline

TransCanada Corp. says it has reached project agreements with three more First Nations in northern B.C. as part of efforts to build a pipeline across the province to a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal on the coast.

Specifics of the agreements weren't announced but TransCanada said they provide for annual legacy payments over the commercial life of the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline plus benefits upon signing and at other milestones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An artist's rendering for the new elementary school at International Village in Vancouver. CONTRIBUTED

Grits should swallow school shortfall: NDP

EDUCATION

$1.6M bank loan was issued to start construction

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The province's education critic believes B.C. should have covered the funding shortfall required to build a new elementary school in Vancouver's International Village.

NDP MLA Rob Fleming accused the Liberals of double standards on Monday, after the Vancouver School Board was forced to negotiate a $1.6 million bank loan to begin construction on the planned downtown school.

"I've never heard of that before. Construction funding for schools has always been a provincial responsibility," said Fleming.

"It seems the Liberals have a different set of rules when it comes to cost overruns for the BC Place roof and convention centre."

Construction estimates for the school rose $1.8 million between November and March due largely to the impact of the U.S. dollar on construction costs, the school board said.

> **"I've never heard of that before."**
> Rob Fleming

Education Minister Peter Fassbender was not available for interview on Monday.

The Ministry of Education says it signed an agreement with the Vancouver Board of Education for a three-storey school at $13.5 million but — contrary to the agreement — the board has since increased the scope and capacity of the project and requested additional funding two times.

The school is now slated to be a four-storey building and cost 40 per cent more than was agreed upon, according to the provincial government.

Extra costs beyond the scope of the original agreement are the board's responsibility, the ministry says.

Vancouver School Board chairman Christopher Richardson told Metro on Sunday the extra capacity is required to keep up with population projections for the area.

All downtown Vancouver schools are already at or over capacity, he said.

ENERGY

Coal debate heats up ahead of annual meeting

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Opponents to the proposed Fraser Surrey Docks coal export terminal ramped up their anti-coal campaign in advance of Port Metro Vancouver's annual general meeting on Tuesday.

Community members led by Voters Taking Action on Climate Change will attempt to deliver a letter citing their opposition to the project to the port during its meeting.

More than 3,000 people have signed the letter, according to VTACC's Kevin Washbrook.

The port issued a project permit for the facility during the summer of 2014, but it has not yet been built.

Opponents started rallying against the terminal again in early May, when Fraser Surrey Docks indicated it wanted to load the coal directly onto ocean-going vessels instead of onto barges, which it had originally planned to use to transfer the coal to Texada Island.

The company proposed a two-week period for the public to review the proposed change.

Volunteers for the Dogwood Initiative, a local environmental organization, plastered posters around New Westminster last weekend cautioning residents about the proposed facility across the river.

They're concerned about the potential health impacts of the project along with the general impacts coal has on climate change.

VTACC also has a Tuesday court date with the port over its approval of the facility.

Poster protesting the proposed terminal. CONTRIBUTED

INVESTIGATION

Chiefs want teen death probed

Government agencies may have broken the law by repeatedly failing to report that an aboriginal teen who died of a drug overdose in the Downtown Eastside needed protection, says the head of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip called for a police investigation of workers in health care, education, policing and community agencies accused in a report of harbouring a "culture of indifference" toward aboriginal children.

The case of a 19-year-old woman identified only as Paige was highlighted in a scathing report released last month by B.C.'s representative for children and youth, who criticized the province for what she called persistent indifference by front-line workers.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond said Paige's life included open drug use, police encounters and violence, and ended in her death outside a washroom at a park in April 2013.

"Obviously, Paige's horrible story and circumstances are so horrific that we cannot sit idly by and just allow government to simply brush it aside and describe it as being very unfortunate but nonetheless another tragic story from the Downtown Eastside," Phillip said Monday.

"There were so many opportunities for government officials and police officials to intervene, knowing full well that Paige was in harm's way all of her short life and that there should have been an intervention."

Phillip's concerns were outlined in a letter to Police Chief Adam Palmer on May 27. He recommended the investigation be led by an outside agency because of the possibility that some concerns could involve officers of the Vancouver Police Department.

In a response mailed two days later, Palmer agreed that an "effective investigation" should be handled by an organization at arm's length. He wrote that he had approached acting deputy commissioner Dan Malo of the RCMP's E-Division about the Mounties conducting an investigation. RCMP spokesman Rob Vermeulen said in an email the Mounties have not yet received a formal request from police, adding that the proposal appears to have originated through private correspondence so he couldn't comment.

Failure to inform the government of a child needing protection is punishable by a fine of up to $10,000 and six months in jail. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wilbur: The dog-sitting pig

ANIMALS

Daycare for canines gets an unexpected helper, friend

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

An unusual helper at a Vancouver doggy daycare is proving to be a real attention hog.

For the past year Wilbur, a 75-pound Juliana pig, has been the resident "dog-sitter" at Canine Adventure Den Daycare in Vancouver and already considers itself one of the pack, said owner Kirsty MacGregor.

"It's pretty cute," she told Metro. "He's pretty chill but every now and then he'll get a burst of energy and start running in circles, and the dogs will run with him."

MacGregor adopted Wilbur after seeing a Facebook post from an Edmonton breeder searching for a home for the pet pig.

The breeder had rescued the animal from a home where it is believed the pig was being abused and attacked by dogs.

Although her husband wasn't too keen on the idea of a pet pig, MacGregor said she knew she needed to bring Wilbur home.

"I just fell in love instantly, and I booked a flight for him back to Vancouver," she said with a laugh. "It was very spur-of-the-moment."

Although Wilbur had suffered a negative experience with dogs early on in life, MacGregor said the pig seemed to adjust to its new home with three dogs and several rabbits without any qualms. Today, the pig is so comfortable at the daycare that it has become the centre's resident canine companion.

MacGregor said Wilbur enjoys sleeping alongside the boarding dogs the most. If there aren't any available beds, the pig will kick a dog off its bed and steal its spot, she said with a laugh.

"There are certain breeds like boxers or huskies, they don't like him too much," she said. "So we keep him away from those breeds."

But with his friend Samurai, Wilbur has no need to panic if he encounters a less-than-friendly dog. MacGregor said Samurai, a Border collie and Labrador Retriever mix, forged an unlikely friendship with Wilbur.

The pair even goes for hikes together, she said, to the confusion of fellow walkers they encounter on the trail.

"Samurai is his best friend," said MacGregor. "He's kind of like his bodyguard so, if there's a dog that doesn't like the pig, Samurai protects him."

Although she has had a positive experience with Wilbur, MacGregor warned that pig ownership isn't for everyone.

The animals are incredibly clever and need a lot of space and attention, she said. "Pigs are just crazy," she said. "Unless you have the time to put into them, they can get pretty destructive."

Wilbur hanging out with friends. CONTRIBUTED

Wilbur and friends exploring. CONTRIBUTED

Wilbur nestling away for a long nap. CONTRIBUTED

Wilbur, a 75-pound teacup pig, is the resident dog-sitter at Canine Adventure Den Daycare in Vancouver. CONTRIBUTED

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Suit claims detention injuries

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Woman claims lasting leg damage, mental trauma

As Vancouver Police jail guards allegedly bound her feet with a strap and yanked it hard under a cell door, Bobbi O'Shea remembers feeling betrayed.

"These are the people who are supposed to protect us, and they're hurting me," she says, her eyes filling with tears. "What gives them the right to do this to me?"

O'Shea will finally have her day in court on Tuesday, when her lawsuit, against the City of Vancouver and four Vancouver police officers, is set be heard.

She says in 2008 she suffered a panic attack after smoking crack cocaine and called for help.

Police took her to jail, where officers placed her in a so-called passive restraint system.

The system involved sitting her on the floor with her legs outstretched. Her hands were cuffed behind her back and her feet were tied together with a strap, which was pulled under a door and tethered to something in the hallway, her claim alleges.

Bobbi O'Shea sits at the Pivot Legal Society offices in Vancouver, B.C., on Friday.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 44-year-old First Nations woman says she felt a hard tugging on the strap for the entire hour she was restrained.

"It felt like torture. I thought my feet were going to come off my legs," she says. "I was screaming at the top of my lungs."

The mother of four is seeking $25,000 in damages for alleged lasting injuries and emotional trauma. Her lawyer, Doug King of Pivot Legal Society, says police should have taken her to a sobering centre instead of jail, and their use of the restraint amounted to assault.

None of the allegations have been tested in court. The city and police declined to comment ahead of the hearing.

In court documents, the city denies her allegations and calls for the claim to be dismissed. It says if guards used any force it was legal and reasonable because O'Shea disobeyed commands.

"(The constables) were acting in good faith," the documents state. "None of their actions that day can be characterized as being grossly negligent, dishonest, malicious or wilful misconduct."

> **These are the people who are supposed to protect us, and they're hurting me.**
> Bobbi O'Shea

O'Shea says she was initially placed in a cell with a window so a male guard could see her using the toilet. She covered the window with toilet paper and refused to remove it unless a female guard watched over her, she says.

The male guard then took her to another cell where he cuffed her hands behind her back, she says. Guards put her in the restraints after she says she moved her hands to her front to wipe her badly running nose.

After her release, O'Shea says, she began using crack cocaine heavily and became homeless for about a year. She now lives in Burnaby, B.C. and sees a psychiatrist, but feels frequent numbness in her legs and post-traumatic stress, she says.

"It's really put my life on hold," she says, adding her trust in police is broken. "I feel like I fear for my life … There needs to be more sensitivity training when it comes to aboriginals and not to be so abusive to them, because they've already been very abused."

King says the suit was filed in 2010 but took years to get to court because the society struggled to obtain the identities of the accused guards.

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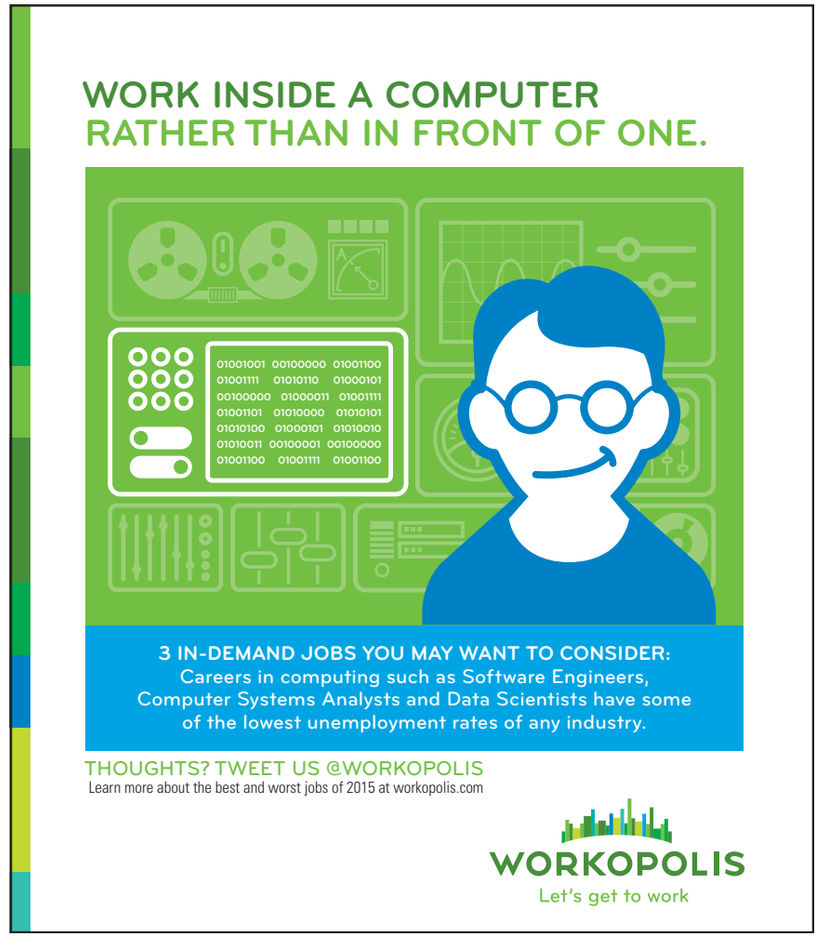
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DETAILS

Five things to know about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Truth and Reconciliation Commons examining Canada's now-defunct residential school system is scheduled to release its final report Tuesday. Here are five things to know about the commission:

1. The commission was established as part of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, which also included money to pay for the commission's work.
2. The commission is led by Justice Murray Sinclair, Manitoba's first aboriginal justice. The other commissioners are Marie Wilson, a journalist, university lecturer and former senior manager at several Crown corporations; and Chief Wilton Littlechild, a lawyer and former Progressive Conservative MP.
3. The group is charged with collecting testimony from residential school survivors and compiling their stories into a historical record.
4. The records of the commission, including recollections from 6,200 former students, will be managed by the National Research Centre on Indian Residential Schools.
5. Residential schools operated for about 150 years, with an estimated 150,000 children spending time in them. At the height of the residential-school era, the government supported 130 such schools. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drummers pass Parliament Hill as they lead the Walk for Reconciliation, part of the closing events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Sunday in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Let's commit to taking one more step together'

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

After report's release, many say more work still necessary

"We are all still here. We made it." For Romeo Saganash, that's the sentiment shared on the occasions when he gets together with fellow residential school survivors.

It's a sentiment that acknowledges the suffering endured by tens of thousands of aboriginal children, a suffering that many Canadians remain in the dark about. The country takes another step Tuesday toward confronting that dark chapter of its past when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Justice Murray Sinclair, releases its findings.

For five years, the Commission has been compiling the story of residential schools, where thousands of aboriginal children were sent, stripped of contact with their families, in many cases denied a proper education and sometimes subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

At least 150,000 First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth went through the residential schools. An unknown number — estimated to be in the thousands — died while attending the schools.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt hailed the "extraordinary courage" of former students who came forward. He said the historical record compiled by the commission will stand as an "achievement of national significance." Yet he cautioned that work remains to be done.

"On this day, let's commit to taking one more step together," he said.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde called on governments — as well as all Canadians — to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

"It's going to be hard to focus on reconciliation when we still have things like poverty that plagues our people," Bellegarde said, highlighting lack of access to safe drinking water, overcrowded housing, the high number of children in provincial care, missing and murdered indigenous women and girls as among the ongoing challenges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

POLITICS

Tories to support NDP motion to ban banks' pay-to-pay fees

The Harper government says it will support an NDP motion to abolish banking fees charged to people who receive paper bills.

Finance Minister Joe Oliver says the government is backing the motion to get rid of so-called pay-to-pay fees because people feel they are being nickeled-and-dimed by the big banks.

Oliver dismisses the suggestion that the Conservatives are following the NDP's lead on the issue, saying the government has already taken steps to lower banking fees.

The government's decision comes after a separate NDP motion to exempt feminine hygiene products from the GST won unanimous approval last week in the House of Commons.

> **We think this is unfair... You shouldn't have to pay a fee to pay your bill.**
> Andrew Cash, the NDP consumer protection critic

The government subsequently introduced legislation to kill the tax.

Last year, the federal government blocked telecommunication and cable companies from charging fees for paper bills, but banks were excluded from the legislation.

"Yes, we will support the motion because we understand that Canadians do not want to pay additional fees to the banks," Oliver said Monday after question period. "This is something that is actually consistent with what we have, in fact, been doing. We're not following (the NDP), they're following us."

Andrew Cash, the NDP consumer protection critic, told reporters he hopes the government passes legislation before the Commons rises for the summer.

Cash, who tabled the motion, said the banks collect about $180 million a year from people who receive their bank statements in the mail.

The fees, he added, target vulnerable communities, including seniors and those who don't have Internet access. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BUSINESS

New law aims to compel car recalls

Car manufacturers can't be trusted to recall vehicles voluntarily when they pose a safety concern, so the federal government is giving itself the power to force their hands, says Canada's transport minister.

Lisa Raitt said the government plans to introduce legislation that would, if passed, also give the government the power to impose limitless fines on companies that don't comply with a recall order.

"Leaving this decision-making capability entirely to manufacturers and importers alone does not serve the best interest of the public," Raitt said Monday outside the House of Commons.

53M

About 53 million vehicles around the world have been recalled amid safety concerns posed by Takata air bag inflators.

The law would also give the government the power to make car importers or vehicle manufacturers pay for repairs to recalled cars, and fix new model vehicles before they are sold in Canada.

The announcement comes on the heels of a major recall of 1.5 million cars in Canada over safety concerns from malfunctioning air bags. THE CANADIAN PRESS

VETERANS

Lawsuit on hold until after election

A long-running lawsuit, launched by veterans against the federal government, is off the docket until after the federal election, if not for good.

The two sides were in a Vancouver court Monday to agree to hit pause on the case until May 2016 to see what the impact is of the reforms the government has made to benefits for veterans in recent months.

Should the changes be to the satisfaction of the veterans who launched the suit in 2012, the case will be over, said the veterans' lawyer Don Sorochan.

A group of veterans had filed the class-action lawsuit to argue that modern-day soldiers were being discriminated against compared with those who fought in the world wars and in Korea.

In their defence, government lawyers outraged veterans by asserting that the federal government has no extraordinary obligation to those who have fought for the country.

Since then, a raft of new measures have been introduced, including new pain and suffering awards, expanded access to permanent impairment allowances for the most severely disabled veterans and retirement income security benefits.

The government has also introduced a bill that recognizes the so-called "sacred obligation" to veterans; that legislation was originally introduced on its own but has since been bundled into the omnibus budget bill.

Sorochan said with the new legislation and regulations already on the table, they are willing to give the government until May 2016 to see if the situation improves, taking into account there could be a new government entirely after the planned October vote.

In exchange, the Conservative government agreed to walk away from its appeal of the decision that allowed the class-action lawsuit to go ahead, but a judge instead simply ordered the case be put on hold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

REACTION

The lawsuit has been a black eye for the Conservative government, which sees itself as a champion for former soldiers and the military.

Some groups have even threatened to campaign actively against the Conservatives during this fall's election campaign.

An unidentified Chinese tourist, wearing a mask to protect herself against the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome virus, visits Gyeongbok Palace in Seoul, South Korea, Monday. Authorities say more than 680 people in South Korea have been placed in isolation after being in contact with those infected with a virus that has killed hundreds of people in the Middle East.

CHOI JAE-KOO/YONHAP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virus hits South Korea

RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

Hundreds in isolation

More than 680 people in South Korea are isolated after having contact with patients infected with a virus that has killed hundreds of people in the Middle East, health officials said Monday.

South Korea has reported 17 cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome since diagnosing the country's first MERS illness last month in a man who had travelled to Saudi Arabia. South Korea's cases have connections to the first patient, either medical staff who treated him or patients who stayed near the man at the hospital before he was diagnosed and isolated.

Also, the son of one of the patients ignored doctor's orders to cancel a trip to China, where he was diagnosed as that country's first MERS case last week. China isolated the South Korean man at a hospital, and Hong Kong authorities said Sunday that 18 travellers were being quarantined because they sat near him, but they were not showing symptoms.

South Korean Health Ministry official Kwon Jun-wook told reporters Monday that 682 people who had close contact with the patients, such as their family members and their medical staff, were isolated at their homes or state-run facilities to prevent the spread of the disease.

Ministry officials said the number could rise.

MERS was discovered in 2012 and has mostly been centred in Saudi Arabia. It belongs to the family of coronaviruses that includes the common cold and SARS, and can cause fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure. The virus has spread primarily through contact with camels, but it can also spread from human fluids and droplets.

There have been 1,167 cases of the virus worldwide and 479 of the patients have died, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRAN TALKS

Kerry heads home for leg surgery

Secretary of State John Kerry headed home Monday to Boston from Geneva, Switzerland, for surgery on his broken leg, as U.S. officials insisted that his injury would not hinder his participation in nuclear negotiations with Iran.

With an end-of-June deadline for an Iranian deal fast approaching, the 71-year-old Kerry left Geneva aboard a U.S. military plane accompanied by his orthopedic surgeon Dennis Burke and additional medical personnel. Officials said Burke is expected in the coming days to perform surgery on Kerry's right femur, which Kerry fractured on Sunday in a bicycle accident when he struck a curb and fell on a regular Tour de France route in France located southeast of the Swiss city.

Look fwd to getting leg set & getting back to @ StateDept!

John Kerry on Twitter

He had been receiving treatment at Geneva's main medical centre, HUG, and is to receive further care at Massachusetts General Hospital once he returns home. Kerry, an avid cyclist, had hip replacement surgery several years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA SCANDAL

Mbeki denies bribe paid for World Cup

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki denied his government paid bribes to secure the 2010 World Cup as the bid scandal began to encroach on the very top of the country's leadership on Monday.

"I wish to state that the government that I had the privilege to lead would never have paid any bribe even if it were solicited," Mbeki said in a statement from his office.

Mbeki was president at the time of South Africa's successful bid in 2004.

His denial came as South African soccer head and former 2010 bid leader Danny Jordaan reportedly told a newspaper that $10 million was paid to former FIFA vice-president Jack Warner's regional confederation in 2008.

According to the Sunday Independent newspaper, Jordaan denied that money — referred to in the U.S. Department of Justice's indictment into corruption in FIFA — was a bribe from South Africa via FIFA for Warner's backing.

Instead, Jordaan said it was to help Warner — implicated in a series of corruption allegations in the DOJ investigation into FIFA — with soccer development in his region, the newspaper reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, SPORTS PAGE 17

NEW FROM THE #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF MR MERCEDES

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Virtual reality getting real

TECHNOLOGY

Mainstream firms bringing VR to home video products

Virtual reality is creeping into our world.

Once seen as a tool for alien-blasting gamers, movie studios, television producers and artists are now adopting the technology, which immerses people in faraway realms using bulky goggles, house-sized domes, and smartphones.

Universal's Focus Features recently launched its first virtual-reality experience for movies, promoting the upcoming release of its Insidious: Chapter 3 horror flick. It's driving a truck around the United States, inviting fans to wear virtual-reality goggles. It's also sent out thousands of movie-branded Google Cardboard kits, which fold around smartphones to turn them into primitive VR viewers.

VR remains the realm of promotion. But content created now or for future films could also build value for home video products as more VR headsets are sold, says Matt Lipson, senior vice-president of digital marketing at Focus Features.

And the number of outlets for virtual reality is increasing.

Oculus VR, the company Facebook bought for $2 billion US and a leader in the VR headset market, is expected to start shipping a consumer version early next year. Samsung, meanwhile, is selling Gear VR, which works with Galaxy S6 smartphones. Sony will release a consumer version of its Project Morpheus, which connects to its PlayStation 4, in the first half of next year.

Facebook is testing what CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls "spherical video," or a flat representation of immersive content that could be navigable by mouse on its website. Google's YouTube launched support for "360-degree video" on Chrome browsers and Android phones in March and is providing VR camera rigs for its partners at its six studios. Fold-up Google Cardboard units can be bought online for as little as $2.46.

One virtual frontier to cross is creating environments for groups, not just individuals, in the same way that theatres provide a community experience. That possibility was tested out recently when eight art school students gathered under a dome in downtown Los Angeles. They were preparing an immersive show projected on a 19-foot-high hemisphere.

It's all part of creating a new cinematic language that doesn't just play out on the screen in front of you, but is interactive and immersive, said Prof. Hillary Kapan, who put on the class for the California Institute of the Arts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California Institute of the Arts students lie on the floor while watching a student project at the Vortex Dome in Los Angeles. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **We're just in the beginning stages of understanding.**
> Prof. Hillary Kapan

IN BRIEF

Google sets up simpler privacy control hub

Google is making its privacy controls easier to find and understand in an attempt to make its more than one billion users more comfortable about the personal information they provide. The simpler approach that debuted Monday features a redesigned "My Account" hub where all of Google's key privacy controls can be found. A new site at http://privacy.google.com will address a variety of issues in a question-and-answer format.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New CEO says Malaysia Airlines will recover

Malaysia Airlines' new CEO Christoph Mueller said the "technically bankrupt" carrier could break even by 2018 after it cuts 6,000 of its 20,000 staff, sells two of its A380 super jumbo jets and refurbishes its international fleet. The remaining 14,000 employees have been offered jobs in a new company that is being set up to take over the legacy Malaysia Airlines business.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pay Quebec smokers $15B, big tobacco told

A judge has awarded more than $15 billion to Quebec smokers in a landmark case that pitted them against three Canadian cigarette giants — JTI-Macdonald, Imperial Tobacco and Rothmans, Benson & Hedges — the Quebec Council on Tobacco and Health, an anti-tobacco lobby group, said Monday.

The case marked the first time tobacco companies have gone to trial in a civil suit in this country and involved two groups of plaintiffs: some who became seriously ill from smoking and others who said they couldn't quit. The plaintiffs included just over one million Quebecers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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the big number

£40M

Is the grant the United Kingdom pays yearly to the Royal Family. It's 15 per cent of the profits from the Crown Estate (government coffers keep the rest), but by law it never decreases. In fact, it's grown 29 per cent since 2012, sparking outrage and a review slotted for next spring. Canadians each pay $1.63 per year (up from 74 cents in 1999) for Crown expenses such as the Governor General and royal visits. Of course, the royals deliver a kingly sum to the U.K. economy each year in tourism and trade — £7 billion by one recent estimate. THE INDEPENDENT

Not too late for bike lanes on Burrard bridge

YOUR RIDE
Karen Quinn Fung

Since it was first put in place, the City of Vancouver's protected cycling facility on the Burrard Street Bridge has largely been regarded as a win, with the numbers of people choosing to walk and cycle across the bridge rising from year to year.

As a result of the safer crossing, 1.3 million cycling trips were made over the bridge between May 2014 and April 2015. The city is also seeing increasing use by growing numbers of year-round, all-weather cyclists.

But the bridge's success has always been slightly tarnished by one not-so-tiny detail. When the construction tape came down in 2009, pedestrians were greeted with signs in place banning their use of the east sidewalk, as it had been converted to a protected lane for northbound cyclists. For some, making the crossing legally and safely has meant walking well out of their way and much farther than they had to before.

This advancement for sustainable travel in the city, it turns out, compounded the regular hardship imposed on pedestrians. City council's decision to reallocate one lane instead of two was almost certainly done to maintain the number of downtown-bound lanes for cars. It was a compromise, made in the face of fear and anxiety about intolerable delays and massive gridlock.

More than five years on now, we can say with confidence that the traffic disaster predicted has never come to pass. So it is long past time for this unfair arrangement on the bridge to be rectified, by reopening the east sidewalk to pedestrians. A chance to do that is now in sight.

The City of Vancouver staff announced this week that they'll seek council's go-ahead for a major construction project for the Burrard Street Bridge. Slated to start in 2016, the main task is vital replacements to the bridge structure, but several safety enhancements are in the offing too.

Among them? Restoring safe pedestrian access to the east side, by doing what many argue should have happened in 2009: creating a northbound protected bike lane on the main bridge deck. Better late than never.

And for drivers? The Burrard and Pacific Boulevard intersection will be overhauled, anticipated to make southbound line-ups a thing of the past. It will also be safer and easier to navigate, similar to what's in place at the south end at Cornwall Avenue.

Will the worn trope of the "war on the car" rear its ugly head as this proposal makes its way to council? Probably. But the rest of us will read the fine print, grit our teeth through the construction period, and bask in being able to safely, conveniently use and enjoy the bridge once more — whatever mode we choose.

The bridge's construction was tarnished by one detail: When construction came down, pedestrians were greeted with signs banning their use of the east sidewalk.

Karen Quinn Fung writes on sustainable transportation issues and policy. Find her @counti8 on Twitter.

metroview

Down with singlism: One-person families are the new normal

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

Thanks to singlism, is it any wonder I've become an amateur therapist?

After all, I'm recently single and dating. And by that stroke, at 37, I'm again part of the singleton trend: the expanding army of those who, by choice, divorce, mental health challenge, bereavement or other circumstance, walk in the door at night and greet (as in my case) a cat, or a dog, a television, an iPad — whatever it may be — as long as it's not another human.

This is not just a trend. Hipster beards are a trend. The singleton is a full-scale shift to a new normal. And therein is the problem: part of the rise of the singleton is the rise of singlism, a pervasive form of discrimination that is finally visible to many. But it isn't new. I've been living with singlism my entire life.

The U.S. is home to 90 million unmarried people and 150 million who live in one-person households. Most singletons are under-35 millennials or seniors who have lost a spouse.

Which brings me back to amateur therapy. It's unsurprising that dating similarly aged single women includes a lot of counselling. Many have tried to satisfy societal expectations: long-term relationships, kids, marriages, only for it all to shatter. While objectively happier single, subjectively they feel ashamed.

Here's why I'm not surprised: living alone is easy. Being told by society you're wrong, weird or missing out? Less so.

Author Bella DePaulo coined "singlism" a few years back. It's pervasive in tax policy, coffee-shop conversation, popular culture and deeply held beliefs. Consider what you would think if you encountered a never-married 37-year-old man. Selfish? Childish? Immature? Incomplete? Lonely? That's singlism, folks.

Don't worry, I'm used to it all. I've been single a lot in my 30s, and I'm an only child, too, the other kind of singleton that gets you labelled a weirdo.

To cope, I challenge singlism in a playful way. To friends having their first child, I ask if they'll stop at one. Despite their being busy, broke or unhappy, their answer is always no — "They need a playmate." Funny, I tell them, since only children, like adult singletons, are becoming the norm.

Also funny is while this happens, a 2015 Pew study shows Americans' "ideal family" size has shrunk: 48 per cent of respondents said two children is ideal. But get this: while only children are everywhere, only three per cent of respondents said one child was ideal — just larger than the two per cent who said no children at all.

I see this as proof social expectations and beliefs lag a generation behind social realities. Singletons are the reality. Singlism is the next discrimination that needs to go.

Rosemary Westwood will return Wednesday.

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Your essential daily news

Global's fall lineup includes Supergirl, Limitless and Late Show with Stephen Colbert

Inside the EDM scene

MUSIC

Mutek brings best of techno to Montreal

Jesse Ship
For Metro Life

Californian transgender techno artist Rrose sits in a skin-tone bodysuit in a box while passers-by gawk in Montreal's cosmopolitan Place Des Arts.

Just inside, Japanese multidisciplinary artist and choreography Hiroaki Umeida dances wildly on stage in front of a pixelated snowstorm as part of his Holistic Strata performance.

The act is moving and surreal: The eye is drawn into the chaotic display as his body is jolted with electric stabs of a DSL modem gone haywire.

Welcome to a snapshot of the Mutek festivities, a five-day celebration of electronic music discovery and audio-visual art installations, which just wrapped its 16th year on Sunday.

While EDM has become the hottest genre in the last few years and has only begun to crack the mainstream, Mutek has been exploring the business of techno music for more than a decade.

Techno acts like Berlin's Lucy and abstract visuals of Robin Fox and Atom™ stole last Thursday night's shows using a combination of drones, synths and moving tones to induce personal catharsis.

Friday night at the Metropolis is dominated by thundering mechanical techno with live performances from Berlin's Berghain super-club resident, Steffi.

"It's rare that something is curated this way," said John Tejada, L.A.-based 20-year veteran techno DJ, producer and what you call a seasoned "gear head" in music production circles.

"Mostly at festivals you get a field or sandy areas and different stages. There's not many even in Europe where things are so overhyped and you have a mixture of different venues."

Mutek is an unofficial kick-off to Montreal's festival season, attracting electronic music pilgrims from as far as Europe and the U.S. The on-vacation attitude dominates as fans dress to feel as comfortable and colourful as they wish.

Mutek is very much an urban festival in that attendees travel between well-kept venues like the Metropolis, a converted movie theatre turned music venue or the two story Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC).

The neighbouring Théatre Maisonneuve in the Place Des Arts was also integral part of this year's Mutek.

Avant-garde composer Tyondai Braxton, who collaborates with Philip Glass, unveiled his HIVE1 performance there early Saturday evening as part of the A/VISIONS series.

"The mixture of venues makes it really interesting. You're not bouncing around stages — you have big variety and a unique look to every venue," said DJ Tejada, who often feels the grind of the jet-set life as a touring performer.

"You're not waiting an hour for a port-a-potty or drink tickets. It's civilized. I feel like I'm on vacation."

If you don't recognize any of the names of the artists, that's OK.

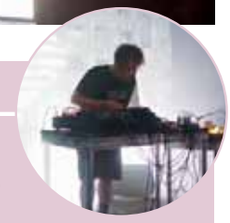
Music discovery is a part of the Mutek mission said Montreal's Juno-nominated Poirier who has performed a handful of times since 2002 under his name as well as his other project, Boundary.

"Even for me, there's always stuff I don't know," he said. "My friend was complaining that there were no big names he recognized, but I told him, 'This isn't about names, this is about discovering new music.'

"People trust the festival, they are excited and understand the privilege to be able to see new acts, or ones they've never heard of."

A Mutek show at the Musée d'art contemporain. RUNG DUNG NGUYEN/MUTEK

HOT ACTS



One to watch: Patricia (pictured)
Chicago's Max Ravitz's current incarnation has seen his name rise, thanks in part to his debut EP Body Issues.

The Local: Poirier aka Boundary
Poirier is a product of Montreal, and his fascination with Caribbean and African music has seeped into his experimental reggae and dance-hall interpretations.

Global Superstar: Kode9
Kode9's Hyperdub label defined a generation of electro and dubstep, setting the stage for today's bass-obsessed all-stars.

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World, meet Caitlyn Jenner

COMING OUT

Bruce Jenner transformed on Vanity Fair cover for July

Bruce Jenner's transition is complete.

"Call me Caitlyn," declares a headline on the July cover of Vanity Fair, with a photo of a long-haired Jenner in a strapless corset, legs crossed, sitting on a stool. The image was shot by famed celeb photographer Annie Leibovitz. Inside, more images depict Caitlyn in gold lame, a black bustier and a cleavage-baring, off-the-shoulder gown.

Caitlyn Jenner also debuted a new Twitter account with: "I'm so happy after such a long struggle to be living my true self. Welcome to the world Caitlyn. Can't wait for you to get to know her/me." In about three hours, the account had more than 860,000 followers.

According to the magazine, which took to Twitter with the cover Monday, Jenner spoke emotionally about her gender journey: "If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never ever did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, 'You just blew your entire life.'"

The cover photo was shot at Jenner's Malibu, Calif., home and comes on the heels of her two-hour ABC interview with Diane Sawyer in which Bruce Jenner confirmed the transition. The much-anticipated 20/20 interview on April 24 was watched by more than 17.1 million viewers.

Bruce Jenner, sporting long hair and a strapless swimsuit, poses for the cover of Vanity Fair's July issue.

Prior to the unveiling of Caitlyn, Jenner had said he preferred the pronoun "he," but Vanity Fair contributing editor Buzz Bissinger, who wrote the story, refers to "she."

The Olympian who married and divorced reality show "momager" Kris Jenner has appeared for years on Keeping Up with the Kardashians. Jenner's own still-untitled docu-series chronicling her transition is scheduled for the same network, E!, beginning July 26.

"Caitlyn doesn't have any secrets," Jenner narrates. "As soon as the Vanity Fair cover comes out, I'm free."

Bissinger, the "Friday Night Lights" Pulitzer Prize winner, said in the lengthy magazine story that he had unfettered access to Jenner, both before her transition and after.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mad Max Barbie hits eBay

If you want a Barbie doll version of Imperator Furiosa — Charlize Theron's badass Mad Max: Fury Road character — there's only one place to go: eBay. There's only one doll in existence — currently being auctioned off by the artist who crafted it — and oh man, is it a cool-looking toy! So, as they say, how much would you pay? Bidding closes Friday, so think fast. NED EHRBAR/METRO

GETTY IMAGES

PUBLISHING

Fifty shades of passé

Assuming you're not completely sick of all things Fifty Shades of Grey-related just yet, author E.L. James is eager to keep trying. James announced that she's releasing a new version of the Twilight-inspired best-seller later this month that retells the story from Christian Grey's point of view. So, American Psycho — but with less murder.

"Christian is a complex character," James says in a statement.

"And readers have always been fascinated by his desires and motivations and his troubled past. Also, as anyone who has ever been in a relationship knows, there are two sides to every story."

We really should have seen this coming, honestly, since Stephenie Meyer did it with Twilight — retelling the story from Edward Cullen's perspective in Midnight Sun. I can't wait to not read it. NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

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ACTION BRONSON

Taking a kick at preemptive Action

SOUND CHECK

Alan Cross

Because I was travelling, I missed the debate on whether rapper Action Bronson should perform a free public show during NXNE in Toronto.

By the time I got home, it was settled: a petition against Branson's violent and misogynist lyrics had scuttled the gig.

This whole thing left me unsettled and confused. While I understand all the objections to the things Branson raps about, I was also annoyed at the censorship side of it all. Is this an example of mob rule? Or did the public rise up and demand that decency be protected in a public space?

So I did what I always do when I wander into the weeds in these sorts of debates: I asked my wife. I can always trust her to tell me when I'm being an idiot — and because her second favourite f-word is "feminist."

"Should Action Bronson be allowed to perform at NXNE?" I ask.

She shrugged. "Sure. Why not?"

"But his lyrics!" I sputtered. "They're vile and awful. They just feed into the misogyny women have to deal with every day and the notion of rape culture. Shouldn't there be a line drawn somewhere?"

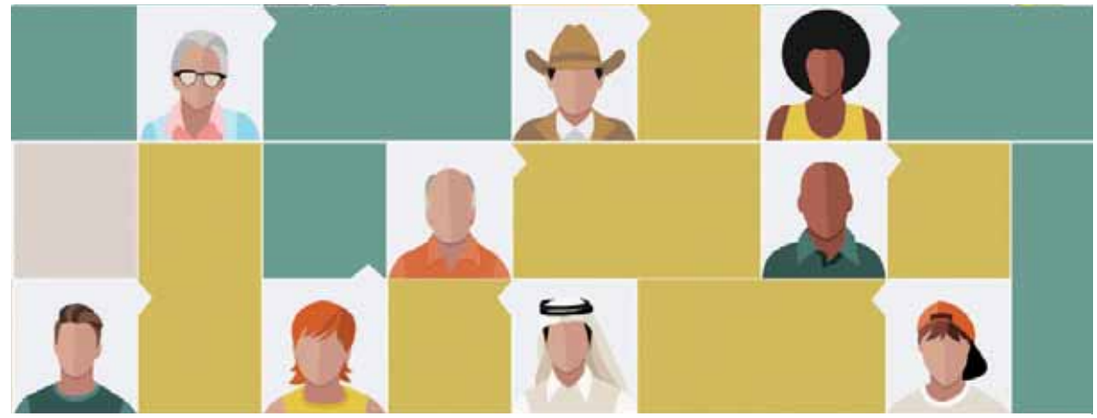
"People are missing the point," she said. "The real issue here is the venue. Yonge-Dundas Square, a publicly funded space that has specific policies in place and has a right to exercise them. This isn't a pure free speech issue. We'd probably have the same conversation if Eminem, Marilyn Manson or any other controversial performer were booked into the square.

"But if Action Bronson were being banned from performing anywhere at NXNE, THAT would be a problem. But if he's got a gig inside a private venue that has its own policies and standards — well, fill yer boots. And if someone hears something they consider hate speech, they're free to make a complaint."

She continued. "Here's the problem. AB was banned because of something he might have performed — even though he hasn't performed the material at the heart of this controversy on this tour. It was a preemptive strike against someone many people hate."

"Now consider this. If you can shut down Action Bronson for the things he might say about women, couldn't you shout down a theoretical YDS performance by Amy Schumer for any offensive things she might say about men?"

Wise woman, my wife.



After moving to a new town, it's important to evaluate potential friendships before jumping into them. ISTOCK

Soothing our social network anxieties

FRIENDSHIP

Building a new circle of friends takes time and focus

URBAN ETIQUETTE

Ellen Vanstone

Dear Ellen,
I just moved to town and I am attending a new school. I am finding it difficult to make new friends as it is late in the year and everyone has already established their friend groups. How should I go about finding people to hang out with? – Abbey

Dear Abbey,
I feel for you — you're in a tough situation that may not have a quick fix. The good news is that you're blessed with an understanding of human behaviour, which augurs well for great friendships to come. You can see there are tons of potential friends right in front of you — but that even nice people are creatures of habit. They find their groove and settle into it, and it might take time to work your way into their established social scene.

In the meantime, make the situation work for you. As an outsider, you have a unique opportunity to observe the groups and friendships around you. Take this time to figure out who the quality people are and which of them measures up to your level of insight and intelligence. You can also use this time to figure out what *you* are truly interested in — pursue your interests with a passion and you'll inevitably connect with like-minded souls.

Good luck, and let us know what happens!

To Lisa, who wrote in to say it's difficult to make introductions when you forget the other person's name:

Excellent point. I still cringe at the times I've gotten some people's names totally wrong. If you can't remember the other person's name, simply cut the conversation short and move on without making any introductions. Alternatively, train your friends to jump in and do it for you — i.e., if you're with one friend and you run into a new person, nudge your friend to introduce themselves as well as ask the new person: "And what's your name?" If all else fails, you can always resort to honesty: "Hey, sorry, I'm having a brain freeze — what's your name again?"

Need advice? Email Ellen at scene@metronews.ca

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metro SPORTS

Defending champ Maria Sharapova lost to Lucie Safarova at the French Open

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

IN BRIEF

Whitecaps receive tough CONCACAF draw

The Vancouver Whitecaps will not have an easy start in the CONCACAF Champions League.

Vancouver was put into a group with Major League Soccer rival Seattle Sounders and Honduras's Club Olimpia on Monday at the CCL draw.

The three teams are in Group F, one of the eight divisions in the international club tournament featuring teams from across North America.

"We've definitely got the most difficult group of the eight," said Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi. "You've got the Honduran champions and the Supporters' Shield champions. There is some benefit to it being Seattle in that it's just a bus ride. But, at the same time, it will be extremely competitive."

Dates have not been set for the matches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zuccarello speaks on his four days as a mute

New York Rangers forward Mats Zuccarello could not speak for four days after being hit in the head by a shot in the opening round of the NHL playoffs and sustaining a small skull fracture and some bleeding.

Three days after the Rangers lost Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final to the Tampa Bay Lightning, Zuccarello discussed his injury for the first time on Monday. "I couldn't talk for a while, had a contusion, some blood in my brain. That affects a lot. Now I go to speech therapy. I'm getting much better. I couldn't say a word for four days. I feel much better," Zuccarello said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hammel, Cubs sink Marlins

Jason Hammel had a career-high 11 strikeouts in 6-2/3 innings, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Miami Marlins 5-1 Monday night.

With his start pushed back because of a cracked fingernail and a rainout, Hammel pitched for the first time in eight days, and allowed one run, four hits and no walks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lions defensive backs adjust to no-contact zone

CFL

New rule aims to open up passing game

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Knees bent as his feet scurry backwards in a hurried but controlled manner, Ronnie Yell's hands appear stuck to the side of his body. He can't move them. It's trouble if he does.

In each of Yell's hands is a handle attached to a flexible cord that is wrapped tightly around the player's waist.

As he continues to back up, an opposing receiver rushes toward him, gaining speed as he prepares to make a manoeuvre that Yell must match.

Still, his hands cannot leave the side of his body.

"With the rope, it's definitely difficult. It's basically all feet, all foot work," said Yell, the B.C. Lions' sophomore defensive back. "The rope is (used) to take away the hands completely."

Yell isn't alone. Every defensive back in camp must go through the same exercise.

After a few reps, the cord is removed, and the defensive back can face the receiver again in a one-on-one situation. The objective is to get defenders focused on keeping the hands down.

After having some choice words on a new rule in the CFL, Lions defensive back Ryan Phillips has warmed to it. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

In April, the Canadian Football League's board of governors approved a number of rule changes, including one in which a defensive back or a receiver cannot initiate contact on an opponent after five yards from the line of scrimmage, in hopes to opening up the passing game.

"It's going to be a big change," said Yell. "It's going to expose a lot of people who don't have that technique."

Even Ryan Phillips, a veteran of 11 years with the Lions, has never done this particular drill with his hands essentially kept to his side.

"When the entertainment value goes down ... the rule kind of makes sense to me, after I thought about it," said Phillips. "My initial reaction was this is some BS."

Phillips agreed the new rule favours receivers, but suggested it could also be an advantage for defensive backs that are more technical instead of overly physical.

"I even told (GM Wally Buono) that. I said, 'Wally, watch. It's going to be a revolving door with all these other guys that are used to just mauling guys," said Phillips.

"But guys like myself that want to use technique and use their feet ... it's going to benefit us."

INJURY FRONT

Hawkins expected to miss 10-12 weeks

Import receiver Lavelle Hawkins had surgery on his elbow after leaving Sunday's practice with an injury, according to head coach Jeff Tedford.

Hawkins, who signed with the Lions in March, could be out for 10 to 12 weeks, Tedford said.

On Monday afternoon, the Lions announced the signing of another import receiver, Terence Jeffers-Harris, who will join the club in Kamloops.

CORRUPTION SCANDAL

Report pegs FIFA's Valcke at centre of $10M bribe

A report says the high-ranking FIFA official who allegedly made a $10-million payment central to a U.S. probe into soccer corruption is believed to be Sepp Blatter's right-hand man, Jerome Valcke.

The New York Times reported late Monday that U.S. law enforcement officials believe Valcke, FIFA's secretary general, transferred the money in 2008 to accounts controlled by Jack Warner, the former CONCACAF president and FIFA vice-president who faces corruption charges in the U.S. The report cited unidentified law enforcement officials.

SKIPPING OUT

FIFA announced earlier Monday that Valcke had cancelled his planned trip to attend the opening of the Women's World Cup in Vancouver on Saturday "due to the current situation."

U.S. investigators believe the money was paid as a bribe in exchange for Warner and others voting to give the 2010 World Cup to South Africa.

The Times said Valcke said in an email that he did not authorize the payment and did not have the power to do so. A FIFA statement said the payment was authorized by the then-finance committee chairman, per FIFA regulations. The chairman, Julio Grondona, died last year.

The payment is at the heart of a probe that led to seven FIFA members arrested last week and a total of 14 people named in a racketeering indictment accusing soccer officials of accepting more than $150 million in bribes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, left, shakes hands with secretary general Jerome Valcke on Friday in Zurich.

MICHAEL BUHOLZER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Keith's 'kind of a freak'

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Blackhawks piling ice time on star defenceman

Duncan Keith says he's not tired.

As much as he's playing in the playoffs, it's possible to get tired just watching him.

The Chicago Blackhawks' top defenceman has skated over an hour more than the next closest player for a total of 537 minutes through the first three rounds. If Keith keeps playing 31:36 a game, he'll have the highest average ice time since the NHL and the Elias Sports Bureau began keeping track in 1998.

537

The amount of time in minutes Keith has played through three rounds in the playoffs

Keith is on pace to play more than 600 minutes this post-season, a feat that has been accomplished only 31 previous times since 1998 and twice already by him. A third would put him ahead of elite company that includes Chris Pronger and Scott Niedermayer.

"He's kind of a freak as far as his metabolism and conditioning level," coach Joel Quenneville said during the Western Conference final. "Just certain guys genetically, aerobically, anaerobically, they can sustain it."

That's a common theme for minute-munching defencemen who have taken on a heavy burden on the way to the Cup final.

"I think that you get used to it," said Derian Hatcher, who averaged almost 28 minutes a game for the Dallas Stars in 2000. "I think when you're used to it and when you're conditioned to it, it's not a big deal at all. You kind of expect it."

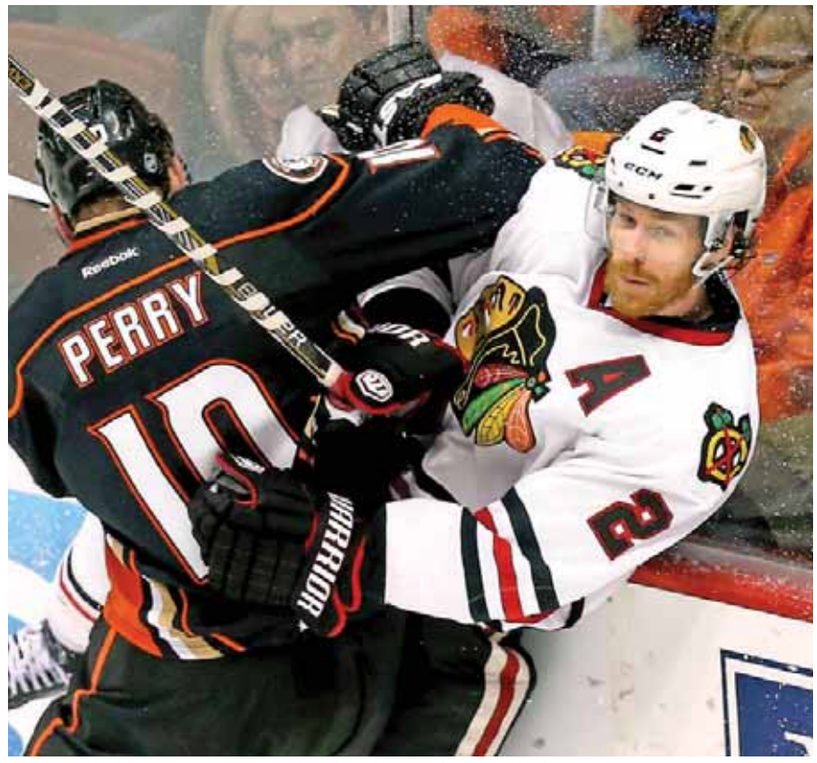
Part of the expectation is on Keith, given the Blackhawks' lack of reliable depth on defence. Quenneville leans heavily on the 31-year-old Norris Trophy winner, Niklas Hjalmarsson (26:34 a game), Brent Seabrook (26:21) and Johnny Oduya (25:23).

After beating the Anaheim Ducks in Game 7 of the West final, Keith said he didn't think any player was tired this time of year. The excitement of facing the Tampa Bay Lightning in the Stanley Cup final is enough energy for the Blackhawks' Energizer Bunny.

If Keith continues playing more than 31 minutes a game, he'll approach or surpass Nicklas Lidstrom's average ice time of 31:10 from the Detroit Red Wings' 2002 Cup run. If the series goes seven games and he keeps this up, he'll pass Los Angeles Kings defenceman Drew Doughty's total ice time of 747:33 from last year.

"Keith is a guy who knows how to manage his minutes well," said Lightning defenceman Matt Carle, who averaged 25 minutes a night for the 2010 Philadelphia Flyers. "You watch him play, he skates pretty effortlessly. But I've got to think it's been taking a toll on his body."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blackhawks blue-liner Duncan Keith absorbs a hit from Ducks forward Corey Perry on Saturday night during Game 7 of the Western Conference final in Anaheim. STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

> **"I'm sure we're going to try to make him work as much as possible and try to tire him out as much as we can.**
> Lightning defenceman Matt Carle

WHO'S NEXT?

Lightning's playoff path has them ready for 'Hawks

The Tampa Bay Lightning were constantly reminded this post-season of what they hadn't done.

This version of the Lightning hadn't won a playoff game, let alone a series, knew nothing about Game 7 pressure and ventured into uncharted territory in the conference final.

Along the way, the young Lightning became the first team since 1998 to reach the Stanley Cup final after being swept the previous year and the first in NHL history to defeat three Original Six teams to get to this point. After already knocking off the Detroit Red Wings, Montreal Canadiens and New York Rangers, they can add another if they beat the Chicago Blackhawks and raise the Cup.

More than history, though, the Lightning picked up valuable lessons over the first three rounds that make them more prepared to take on Chicago, which Steven Stamkos called "the ultimate beast."

"This is the biggest challenge yet," Stamkos said Monday after practice at Amalie Arena. "You grow as a team throughout each round, you learn a lot about this group, the adversities we've had to overcome, the great players that we've played along the way and have overcome." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conn Smythe Trophy front-runners

A year ago "Mr. Game 7" Justin Williams recorded two goals and five assists in the Stanley Cup final to earn the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. A handful of players could emerge from the pack to do the same this year. Here is a look some of the candidates with odds from online betting site Bodog.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 TYLER JOHNSON

With a playoff-best 12 goals and 21 assists, Johnson has been the Lightning's best player. Centre of the productive "Triplets" line between Ondrej Palat and Nikita Kucherov, the 24-year-old has scored on a consistent basis and in big moments.
Odds: 4-1

Tyler Johnson
MIKE CARLSON/ GETTY IMAGES

2 DUNCAN KEITH

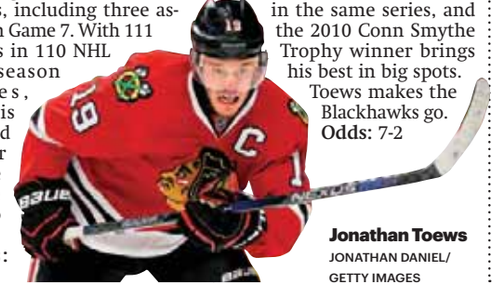
Averaging 31 minutes 35 seconds a game, the Blackhawks' No. 1 defenceman has played almost 70 more minutes than the next highest player in the playoffs. He's also far and away the top blue-line scorer with 18 points.
Odds: 5-1

3 PATRICK KANE

The 2013 Conn Smythe Trophy winner had seven points in Chicago's Western Conference final against the Anaheim Ducks, including three assists in Game 7. With 111 points in 110 NHL post-season games, Kane is primed for more in the Cup final.
Odds: 9-2

4 JONATHAN TOEWS

Toews became the first player in Stanley Cup playoff history to have multiple goals in Games 5 and 7 on the road in the same series, and the 2010 Conn Smythe Trophy winner brings his best in big spots. Toews makes the Blackhawks go.
Odds: 7-2



Jonathan Toews
JONATHAN DANIEL/ GETTY IMAGES

5 BEN BISHOP

Tampa Bay's starting goaltender has a 2.15 goals-against average and .920 save percentage, but his two Game 7 shutouts stand out. If the final turns into a long series, Bishop will face his strongest test of the playoffs and have to pass it.
Odds: 5-1

6 VICTOR HEDMAN

Hedman's numbers don't pop off the page, but the big defenceman's play has improved as the playoffs have evolved. The Lightning don't need him to be a 30-minute man, but his 23 a game are some of the best in hockey right now.
Odds: 35-1

Victor Hedman
MIKE CARLSON/ GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Avocado and Chicken Wonton Bites

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

These avocado-filled wontons are perfect for a healthy teaser before the main. Recipe makes 12.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 12 small wonton or egg roll wrappers
- 1 avocado
- 3 Tbsp lemon or lime juice
- 2 Tbsp chopped cilantro
- 1 Tbsp low fat mayonnaise
- 1 garlic clove
- ¼ tsp cumin powder
- 3 Tbsp finely diced red onion
- 1 cup finely diced, cooked chicken breast
- ¼ cup diced tomato
- ⅓ cup shredded white cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese

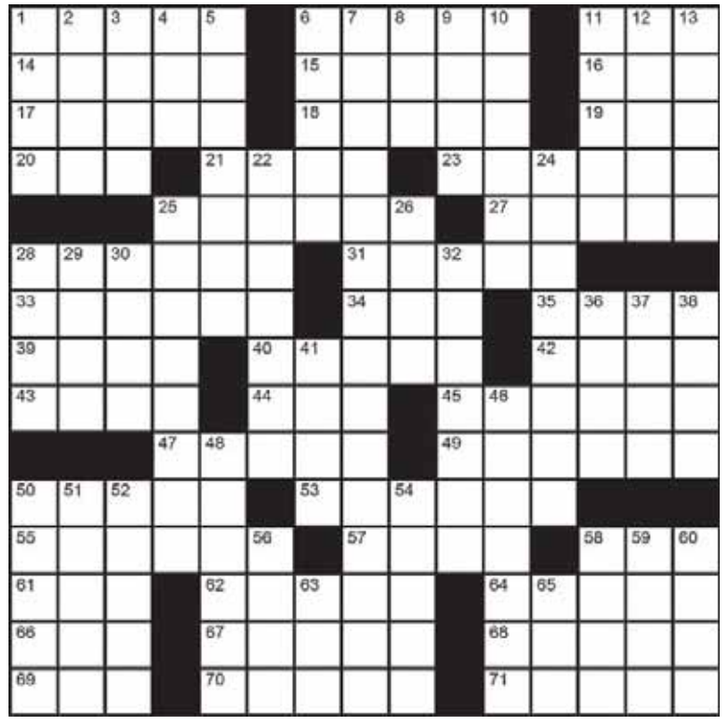
Directions
1. Preheat oven to 375. Spray mini cup muffin tin with vegetable oil. Place wonton wrappers in each cup, spray with vegetable oil and bake for 10 minutes or just until lightly browned and crisp.
2. In bowl of a small food processor, purée avocado, juice, cilantro, mayonnaise, garlic and cumin until smooth.
3. Add in onion, chicken and tomato. Spoon into wonton shells and sprinkle with cheese.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 81
- Carbohydrates 7.0 g
- Protein 5.8 g
- Fat 3.6 g
- Cholesterol 12 mg
- Sodium 84 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Zacharias _, Inuk director of "Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner" (2001)
6. Expect
11. Concealed
14. Cartoon style of Japan
15. Piquant
16. "Ghost" (1990) role, _ Mae Brown
17. Parish clergyman
18. "Coffee, _ _ milk?"
19. NBA-er, Jeremy _
20. "Greetings!" in ancient Rome
21. Biblical heirs, with The
23. Vancouver-set series of 2005 to 2008, "_ Arms"
25. Ms. DeWitt's of "Three's Company"
27. "The _ Professor" (1996)
28. Indirectly refer to
31. Kind of orange
33. Earth's third biggest island
34. 1901 Irving Bacheller book, _ and I
35. Fast food titan Ray
39. Coalition
40. Pickpocket trainer in "Oliver!" (1968)
42. Uncovered
43. Rave's partner
44. Actress Charlotte
45. Fix untidyness
47. The Who's "_ _ Explain"
49. Tatterly togged: 2 wds.
50. Variety of pear
53. "_' Fool" by The Guess Who
55. Senator for California Ms. Feinstein
57. Stirfry pans
58. Big noise
61. Inc., in England
62. Bird-related
64. Cad
66. Wrath
67. Change hair hue again
68. Call forth
69. _ & Breakfast
70. Smeltery waste
71. Speak, archaically

DOWN
1. Polynesian drink
2. Montreal's McGill, e.g.
3. Gracious
4. Ms. Thurman
5. _ Bear (Name by which British Columbia's provincial mammal the Spirit Bear is also known)
6. Empire of Mexico
7. Jaunts for just-a-few-days-off workers: 2 wds.
8. Cool Cucumber link: 2 wds.
9. "Use _ _ lose..."
10. Actor, _ Power (b.1914 - d.1958)
11. "The Planets" composer Gustav
12. _ box (Television)
13. Mr. DeVito
22. Protective daughter of ancient Egypt's sun god: 3 wds.
24. Canadian food retailer since 1982: 2 wds.
25. Haines _ (Yukon village)
26. Wrapped garment
28. Shortened word, for short
29. Kinks hit
30. Dianetics guru, _. _ Hubbard
32. Suzie _, Saskatoon-born Blues singer
36. _-_-tat-tat
37. Beaver State [abbr.]
38. Millennium divs.
41. _ _ E ("Bates Motel" network, spelled-out)
46. Exiles to Elba, for instance
48. Ocean liner company since 1840
50. Improvise
51. Gunpowder component
52. Weary
54. Canonical hour
56. At all
58. Marker on the water
59. Requests
60. Convene
63. Nuptials vow: 2 wds.
65. Lab eggs

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't force yourself to do something you don't enjoy today as it's unlikely you'll do a good job of it. Save your time and energy for something you want to do, even if you have to wait until the end of the week.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are never afraid to try something new but the full moon in wayward Sagittarius warns you to be a bit more cautious over the next few days. Take a risk if you must, but make it a calculated one.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you find yourself backed into a corner today you will have to talk your way out of trouble. If you sound sincere, even your rivals and enemies will find it hard to criticize you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you expect things to go wrong today they most likely will. However, if you expect things to go right, even the most difficult situations could go your way. It's not magic, it's your mind creating your world.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Most likely you will be praised to the skies today. Wherever you go, whatever you do: you'll hear only good things about yourself. Should you be suspicious? Yes, never trust anyone under the light of a full moon!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your best course of action today is to sit on the sidelines and refuse to get involved, no matter what disputes may be taking place. They are too complex for even a Virgo. Let others sort them out for a change.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't let anyone speak on your behalf today. They will most likely say things that could cause trouble. The more controversial your opinions the more you will need to explain them yourself.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's full moon suggests you won't be thinking straight or feeling straight, so watch out. Above all, don't take risks with money — you'll lose out!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You believe that nothing can harm you, that you can push your luck to the limit and get away with it. Your self-belief is admirable but reality could make a large dent in your confidence. The full moon in your sign warns against taking risks.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There may be a dozen and one things you are worrying about at the moment but none of them are important. Compared to most people your existence is charmed. There is simply no need for negativity.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Focus on the big picture over the next 24 hours and don't let little things annoy you. No matter what goes wrong, in the greater scheme of things everything is progressing exactly as it should.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's full moon warns this is not a good time to take risks or liberties, especially on the work front. Something unexpected is likely to occur, be ready to adapt to whatever new power structure may arise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

6	5				8			
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